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I.

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ANOMALOUS ERUPTION.

History of a very rare and anomalous Eruption which appears to be connected with important Changes in the System.

By CHANDLER ROBBINS, M.D.

IN his excellent treatise on Cholera Infantum, Dr. Dewees enumerates among the symptoms which mark a fatal issue of the disease, an eruption of a very peculiar character. His words are these:—

“As death approaches, a gradual aggravation of symptoms takes place; and there is one, which, as far as we have observed, has always proved fatal: it is a crystal-line eruption upon the chest, of an immensity of watery vesicles, of a very minute size. The best idea we can convey of the appearance of this eruption, is to imagine a vast collection of vesicles, apparently produced by flitting an equal number of very minute drops or particles of boiling water, and each particle producing its vesicle. We first pointed out this appearance to our friend Dr. Physick, in the year 1794, in the disease now under consideration; and subsequently, under like circumstances, to Dr. Rush; both of whom acknowledged the eruption new to them.

“This symptom may readily escape observation, if not looked for; it requires that the surface on which it has spread itself should be placed between the eye and the light, and viewed nearly horizontally.”

The eruption thus minutely described by Dr. Dewees, and not, I believe, by any other author, I have seen once. It was in every particular precisely the same, but occurred under circumstances so different, that a record of the case may be useful in warning us not to be too precipitate in founding our prognosis on this single symptom.

On the 17th of August, 1821, I was called to S. C., a little girl 4 years of age. She was laboring under symptoms of decided Hydrocephalus, in its second stage. She sat in a chair as I entered the room, moving her head and body backward and forward slowly but constantly, and continued to do this during the whole of my visit. I learnt that for the last day or two she had done the same thing, without ceasing, from morning till night, and manifested great unwillingness to move or be moved from her position, to speak, eat or drink. Her bowels were costive, countenance pallid, and pupils permanently dilated. It was a case, in fact, which bore itself more distinctly from a case of worms, than any

one of the same disease I have ever seen.

This little girl was several weeks under treatment, but grew slowly worse, until at last she was unable to move herself in bed. Not able to construct any further plan of treatment which could promise any good, I requested a consultation, the result of which was a perfect agreement as to the hydrocephalic nature of the case, and a decided opinion that she was no longer a subject for medical treatment.

In this state the case was left, and no alteration for better or worse was discernible in the patient for several weeks. At length, I received a message from Mrs. C. that her daughter had spoken, and a request that I would call and see her. She replied to several questions, and the eye looked less lifeless than when last visited. On examination, I found the whole chest covered thickly with an eruption, most accurately described in the foregoing extract from Dr. Dewees. It was first discovered by the touch, and on admitting a strong light, the chest had such an appearance as would be given it if hundreds of pearls, about half the size of a pin's head, had been cut in halves and placed thickly on the skin; no redness or soreness was distinguishable. This eruption, to me so novel, continued to spread till the neck, shoulders and arms were entirely covered with it; and the symptoms of the disease gradually abated from the morning of its appearance.

This girl I saw, about six years afterwards, as strong and healthy a child as any we meet.

Remarks.

In this history I have not enumerated the symptoms, nor detail-

ed the modes of treatment, for the former were so decided as to leave no doubt of the character of the disease, and the latter so varied and unsuccessful, as to be of little interest or importance. Nature effected the cure. What agency the eruption had in promoting this cure, and how this agency was exerted, are points which, after much reflection, are yet to me exceedingly indefinite.

Very little attention appears to have been given to the precise modes in which natural cures are effected. The only attempt at a classification of these modes has been made very recently by Mr. Mackenzie, of Glasgow, who divides the processes of what we may call Nature's Therapeutics, into five classes.*

The first class of means employed by Nature to remove disease, act with such rapidity as to elude our notice of their *modus operandi*,—we cannot detect the processes by which the cure is effected. Thus pain ceases, spasm is relaxed, and so on. This, therefore, is regarded by Mr. M. as the cure by "cessation."

The second mode is by "revolution of functions." This is illustrated in measles, vaccinia, and in intoxication. The alcohol first stimulates the circulation, stupor succeeds, and then comes on free excretions by the kidneys, lungs, and skin, by which the alcohol is eliminated, and the system relieved from its stimulus.

The next method is effected by the "revolutions of time," as illustrated by periodical occurrences in the system.

The fourth class is denominated "natural surgery," as in the union

* A sketch of Dr. Mackenzie's views was presented in this Journal, No. 13, vol. 2.—Ed.

of wounds by the first intention, the restoration of parts by granulation, and the removal of injurious substances by suppuration or absorption.

The last method enumerated, is "the conversion of one disease into another" which is more easily or speedily relieved,—as the conversion of dropsy into diarrhœa, head-ach into hemorrhage, &c.

In this last class, (which is, perhaps, the one illustrated in the case I have related,) Nature has already been imitated with infinite advantage. How far a closer observation, a clearer division, and a more systematic study of Natural Therapeutics, might aid the profession in the good work we have undertaken, is a promising subject for reflection and inquiry.

II.

Abridged from the *Edin. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

DISFIGURING THE COUNTENANCE WITH SULPHURIC ACID.

By R. CHRISTISON, M.D. F.R.S.E. &c.

THE disfiguring or maiming the countenance by the throwing of corrosive liquids over it, is a crime of recent origin in this country. It appears to have been first practised in the manufacturing districts during the disputes which took place a few years ago between workmen and masters regarding the rate of wages ; at least, it was first heard of in Scotland under these circumstances. Several deplorable instances having occurred at Glasgow of this malignant and cowardly mode of gratifying revenge, the present Lord Advocate, in applying for a bill to extend to Scotland the Ellenborough act against wounding and maiming, also introduced a clause which classed

with such crimes the offence in question, and awarded for it the punishment of death.

In Glasgow, since the passing of this act, no instance has occurred of the crime against which it is directed. But besides the case I am about to relate, which happened at Edinburgh, it appears from the London newspapers for October and November last, to have been twice committed during these months in the metropolis ; once out of revenge, and again by a shoplifter for the purpose of blinding the shopman and preventing pursuit. It is a crime, indeed, which, now that its existence is generally known, I fear the authorities may often have to deal with ; for it presents several peculiar temptations to the unprincipled and revengeful to commit it. There can be but one opinion as to its enormity and the fitness of the punishment which will now await it in this part of the kingdom.

Hugh Macmillan, and his wife, Euphemia Lawson, were indicted under the statute alluded to, on the 17th of December, 1827, for maiming, disfiguring and disabling Archibald Campbell, by throwing sulphuric acid over him on the 17th of the previous October. The indictment likewise contained a separate charge of murder against them ; but for reasons to be mentioned presently, this charge was afterwards departed from by the public prosecutor.

The facts of the general evidence by which the crime was brought home to the female prisoner, were the following :—The Macmillans, who lived in the same stair with Campbell, had long been on bad terms with him ; and a few days before he met with the accident the woman was bound over to

keep the peace towards him ; on account of which both she and her husband had been repeatedly heard to vow vengeance in the most malignant language. The female prisoner was proved to have obtained, shortly before the commission of the crime, information concerning the corrosive properties of sulphuric acid ; and in consequence hinted that she would some night try its effects on Campbell's cloak after her husband was asleep. Early on the evening of the 17th of October, she was seen to carry out and return with a particular jug, which she placed under her bed, cautioning her children not to meddle with it. Towards midnight, Campbell, on his way up stairs to his lodgings, had approached Macmillan's door, when, the door opening a little, he observed a female arm thrust out, holding something white ; and, under the impression that some mischief was intended him, he was in the act of turning round to retreat down stairs, when a liquid was thrown over him, which, by the intense burning pain it caused, he at once suspected to be oil of vitriol. The alarm being instantly given, the police in a few minutes entered Macmillan's room, where the woman was found dressed, and her husband only dressing himself, as if just raised out of bed. No trace of sulphuric acid could be discovered in the room. But between the alarm in the stair and the arrival of the police, a person who lived in the floor under the Macmillans heard their window open, and something immediately break on the pavement below. Accordingly, in the *close** under the

window were found the fragments of a jug like that which the woman had been seen carrying early in the evening ; and these fragments had a sour taste and smarted the tongue. A large quantity of sour tasted liquid was also found on the stair and wall between Macmillan's door and the spot where Campbell stood at the moment of receiving the injury. By a complete chain of circumstances, therefore, though not by any direct proof, the act of throwing the deleterious liquid was traced to Macmillan's wife.

Campbell was without delay transported to the Infirmary, where he arrived about two in the morning. His state at this time, and the progress of the symptoms till his death, twelve days afterwards, were described by Dr. Hunter, the surgeon, and Dr. Nesbitt, the surgeon's clerk of the hospital, in a report which was libelled on in the indictment, and from which chiefly the following particulars have been derived:—The skin on the left side of the face was partially removed, and the whole presented at first a white disorganized appearance. The eyelids of both eyes were much inflamed and swollen, and the left eyeball was also severely involved in the mischief, but the right eyeball was uninjured. The skin of the inside of the lips was

Edinburgh are from five to ten stories high. Narrow passages, from three to ten feet wide, lead from one street into another, or form courts or cul-de-sacs ; from these passages, which are generally very filthy, doors open occasionally on the lower step of a narrow staircase, which winds up almost perpendicularly to the top, and from this staircase other doors open on each story into the apartments of the poor. These passages and cul-de-sacs are called in Edinburgh *closes*.—ED.

* The buildings in the old town of

also white and swollen, and on the back of the left hand, as well as between the fingers, there were white excoriated streaks. In the course of sixteen hours the white marks turned brown. The pain of the face and eyes, which was at first excruciating, became easier under the use of suitable applications. But as at the time of the visit, about twelve hours after the accident, the pain of the left eye, extending to the head, evidently threatened a severe ophthalmia, he was bled from the arm; and next day the operation was repeated. From these measures he derived great relief. The inflammation and disorganization of the eye, however, went on increasing, and soon ended in the bursting of the cornea and discharge of the aqueous humor and crystalline lens. Towards the close of the fifth day, namely, on the evening of the 23d, while apparently doing well, he had a shivering fit, and next morning complained of acute pain at the bend of the right arm, where he had been bled. Inflammation immediately sprung up around the orifice, general swelling of the arm came on, and progressively increased for the three following days. Severe febrile symptoms ensued, and afterwards also difficult breathing, with other signs of pulmonary inflammation. Under these complicated disorders he gradually sunk, and died on the morning of the 30th of October. The report concluded with ascribing his death to the inflammation of the arm and concomitant fever.

The body was examined on the following day by Dr. Hunter and the late Dr. Cullen, whose report of the appearances is here given in detail.

"On Saturday, the 31st of October, we inspected the body of Archibald Campbell, who died in the Royal Infirmary on the morning of the 30th.

"The right arm was carefully examined and anatomized. We found the vein from which he had been bled very highly inflamed at the wounded part at the bend of the arm. From this point the inflammation had extended upwards to the great vein of the arm and shoulder, and downwards to the small veins of the forearm. These vessels were almost filled with purulent matter, and partly obliterated. The great veins at the upper part of the chest were natural.

"There was a small quantity of serum in the cavity of the membrane which invests the heart, but that organ was itself sound.

"The membrane which covers the lungs and ribs, called the pleura, was inflamed, and covered at the back part with the usual product of inflammation. Seropurulent fluid was found in both cavities of the pleura. Both lungs, when cut into, were found very highly inflamed, and particularly in the upper and lower lobes." [I may here add in explanation, that both lungs were most extensively consolidated by serous effusion, red hepatization, and diffuse tubercles, intimately intermingled; and that the last morbid deposition was distributed in irregular masses, some of them of the size of a pigeon's egg, so as to occupy not less than a third part of the entire volume of the lungs.]

"The left eye had its anterior part entirely destroyed. Some of the humors, [the aqueous humor and crystalline lens,] had es-

caped, and the whole organ was disorganized, and absolutely incapable of recovery.

"Water was found in considerable quantity on the surface, in the cavities, and at the base of the brain. That organ itself was natural. No other morbid appearance was anywhere observed.

"Upon the whole, we are of opinion that Archibald Campbell died of inflammation of the veins of the right arm, and of inflammation of the lungs, the former caused, according to the best of our judgment, by the wound of the vein in bleeding." *Signed, &c.*

To complete the medico-legal investigations in the case, it only remains to mention that the chemical analysis of various articles of the man Campbell's dress was undertaken, at the request of the authorities, by Dr. Turner, now professor in the London University, and myself. The nature of the corroding fluid employed by the prisoner, might perhaps have been presumed from the foregoing particulars of the evidence; but the public prosecutor considered it right not to leave any part of so novel a case without throwing all the light possible on it.

The result of this analysis was, that the fluid used was sulphuric acid; and a short report was accordingly drawn up to that effect.

I need hardly add that the female prisoner, Euphemia Lawson, was found guilty, her husband not guilty. She was consequently condemned to be executed; but as it was the first condemnation under a new statute, her sentence was afterwards commuted for perpetual banishment.

III.

CASE OF SINGULAR TUMOR, &c.

Case of singular Tumor in the Jejunum, preceded by Symptoms resembling Colic.

By E. A. LEONARD, M.D., of Albany.
Communicated by A. H. STEVENS, M.D., Professor of Surgery, &c., for the N. Y. Med. and Phys. Jour.

I WAS called, on the 23d of November, 1828, to Mrs. H., aged 40 years, of good constitution, but whose health for the last few months has been declining. Found her laboring under the usual symptoms of colic; bowels constipated, which she attributes to the use of opium in a recent similar attack; no tension or tenderness in any part of the abdomen. She had a full dose of opium, followed by calomel and other purgatives, by which she was so much relieved on the 27th, that I did not again see her till the 11th of December. During the interval she had repeated alvine evacuations, but on the morning of the day last mentioned, was attacked again with pain in the bowels, which was severe, and not confined to any one portion of the abdomen, but passing up and across from the right iliac to the left hypochondriac region, in the course of the colon. This attack was attended, like the preceding one, by vomiting soon after anything was received into the stomach; she was again ordered an anodyne, succeeded by repeated doses of croton oil, castor oil, calomel, and other purgatives, some of which were retained, and others almost immediately rejected. Five days after taking the calomel, her mouth became excessively sore; this was relieved by

a gargle containing pyroligneous acid. Fomentations were applied, and enemata of various kinds, stimulating, anodyne, &c., administered, and tepid water was also thrown up in large quantities. None of the means made use of produced any decided effect. On the 23d she vomited a considerable quantity of fluid, in which the smell of assafœtida was strongly manifest; a portion of the tincture of that substance had been given in injection on the morning of that day. At this time, very careful examination discovered a small space in the left hypochondriac region, somewhat tender upon pressure; this was quite limited, not more than two inches in diameter. On the 24th the change was exceedingly great, the pain had almost entirely abated, and the pulse, which previously at all times had been nearly natural, had now become extremely weak, and scarcely to be enumerated; there was also delirium. Ordered tinct. quinine and wine ad libitum; she continued to grow worse, but did not

expire until the 27th at evening. —Dissection at 2, P. M., 28th.— Body much emaciated; parietes of the abdomen very thin; vessels of the omentum slightly injected; large intestines sound in every part; some old adhesions, but no marks of recent peritoneal inflammation: on examining the smaller intestines, the inferior portion of the jejunum was found highly inflamed, and on exposing its cavity, a firm, fleshy, or semicartilaginous tumor was discovered, arising from the muscular and covered by the mucous coat, entirely filling it, and even putting its coats very much on the stretch; being in length about two and a half inches. Below the tumor the gut is slightly inflamed and somewhat thickened, but above it the preparation is beautiful, showing the different results from mere irritation to that excessive inflammation, terminating in death of the part. The whole diseased portion of the gut is, in length, about twelve inches. The other viscera of the abdomen were in their natural condition.

SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

EXPULSION OF TAPE-WORMS.

DR. SCHMIDT, of Berlin, has lately sold to the Prussian government, for the sum of 200 rix dollars per annum, a new and certain mode of curing tape-worm,—the effects of which had been previously exhibited to the satisfaction of a committee appointed to investigate the subject. The following is the prescription with which Dr. S. commences his operations:—

R. Rad. Valerian, 3vi.
Fol. Sennæ, 3ij. M. et infus. in
Aq. Bull. 3vj. Adde
*Natr. Sulphur. Crystal. 3iij.
Syr. Mannæ, 3ij.
†Elæosacch. Tanaceti, 3ij. M.

Of this mixture, two tablespoonfuls are to be taken in the morning fasting, and repeated every two hours.

* We take this to mean the Sulphate of Soda.

† A saccharine preparation of the Oil of Tansy, not introduced in our pharmacopœias.

In the mean time, the patient drinks freely of coffee well sweetened with sugar, in order to deprive the worm of its mucous envelop, and to chase it to the lower part of the canal. The mixture is continued until 7 in the evening. At noon the patient takes a "potage clair à la farine," and a few morsels of herring with the roe; at 8, P. M., a salad of herrings hashed up with ham, an onion, and plenty of oil and sugar. The above treatment always causes, during the first day, the expulsion of numerous fragments of the worm, and in some instances has expelled the whole. At 6 the next morning, Dr. S. commences the use of the following pills:—

R. Assafoetid.
Extr. Gramin. aa 3ij.
*Pulv. Guttæ,
 " Rad. Rhei,
 " " Jalap. aa 3ij.
 " " Ipecac.
 " Fol. Dig. Purp.
†Sulph. Stib. Aurant. aa ʒss.
Subm. Hyd. ʒij.
Olei Tanacet. Æth.
 " Anisi Æth. aa gtt. xv. M. fiant
 pil. pond. gr. ij.

Six of these are to be taken hourly, with a tablespoonful of castor oil during the first interval, and coffee well sweetened in the following ones. This is continued till the worm is expelled, which usually happens by two o'clock in the afternoon. If the expulsion takes place very slowly, the oil may be repeated at other intervals after the first. At noon the patient takes only broth, and at evening "un potage au pain ou à la

farine," with fresh butter and sugar. To prevent relapse, there is subsequently ordered, from time to time, a salad of herrings, with horseradish, vinegar and sugar; and a few doses of the pills may be taken every week. After the treatment, the patient is directed to adopt a diet of good soup, chickens, pigeons, &c., and to take daily a few doses of some bitter medicine.

If the presence of tænia is suspected merely without being proved, the patient takes in the evening a salad of herrings, which is followed by a copious draught of sweetened water; and the next morning fasting the following powder:—

R. Pulv. Rad. Jalap. gr. xv.
 " *Sem. Cinæ, ʒss.
 " Guttæ,
Hyd. Mur. Mit. aa gr. vi.
Elæosac. tanac. ʒi. M.

This powder is followed by coffee taken as above, or by rich soup. These means produce abundant stools, in which are found fragments of the worm, if any exist, and sometimes the worm entire. If, however, the existence of this is ascertained, recourse is had to the treatment above mentioned, with a view to its complete removal.

This treatment is contraindicated in pregnancy, at the menstrual periods, in phthisis, hemorrhoids, and extreme debility from old age or other causes. Of 166 persons treated by Dr. Schmidt, only 15 were men. The cases of a single worm amounted to twenty; while in the others

* The whole official title of this article is Pulv. Resin. Gambog. Guttæ. It is a drastic purgative.

† Perhaps the Sulphuret. Antimon.

* This article is introduced into the Pharmacop. Lond. as Semin. Santonici, but not considered as entitled to much confidence.

the number varied from two to nine. The largest number in any one case was seventeen. These occurred in a female 18 years of age, and were of considerable size.

CONSEQUENCES OF A FALL,

Or a Specimen of German Physiology.

A GERMAN doctor tells a story of himself, which, if not intended for a hoax, is a very curious one. By a fall on the floor from a small height, he bruised the great trochanter of the right side. There was neither fracture nor luxation, yet, after seven months had elapsed, he was still able to walk only by the aid of crutches. Immediately after the fall, he experienced a marked aversion for many articles of diet of which he was previously very fond, such as sugar, milk, and wine; while others, which he had before disliked, became at once agreeable,—as beer and vegetable acids. The fall was also followed by obstinate constipation. The author attributes these phenomena to a concussion of the spinal marrow, which might have resulted from the fall.

IMPERFECT VISION.

An Account of two Cases of Insensibility of the Eye to certain of the Rays of Color. By HUGH COLQUHOUN, M.D.

IN the first of these, the individual was incapable of distinguishing between red and a certain shade of green, while other shades of the latter color were easily recognized. By candle light all yellows appeared white; crimson had the appearance

of scarlet; pale green of blue; orange of a dirty red. In the second case, the vision was equally inaccurate, and this inaccuracy extended itself to nearly all the varieties of color. When these were removed to a considerable distance, the power of discrimination seemed to cease entirely, except so far as the individual was able to feel that they belonged to yellow among the light, or to blue among the dark colors. Persons were not easily recognized by their features, though readily known on speaking. In neither of these cases was the disease hereditary.

COLICA PICTONUM.

EIGHT cases of this disease are reported by M. Jacobi, physician to a white lead manufactory at Strasburg, who appears to have paid particular attention to its symptoms and treatment. In the *first* of these cases, castor oil and purgative clysters having been employed to no purpose, tartar emetic was prescribed in conjunction with cream of tartar, so as to produce free vomiting, which was followed by purging. In the *second* case, the treatment consisted in the exhibition of calomel and opium,—ten grains of the former to one of the latter every two hours. This produced some evacuations after the third dose. The *third* was cured in like manner. In the *fourth*, croton oil was given,—first one and then two drops,—but without active purging. A clyster, containing two drops of the oil, was then given, which brought away some scybalæ. Next day the croton was again given, with the addition of opium; and this, as-

sisted by clysters, speedily produced evacuations. A return of the colic made it necessary to repeat the clysters on the following day; after which, permanent relief followed. In the *fifth* case, calomel and opium were given as above, but did not affect the bowels till after the seventh dose, that is, when seventy-two grains of the former had been taken, and seven of the latter. Some evacuations then followed; but the symptoms returning next day, the same treatment was adopted, and carried again to the same extent. Some ptyalism followed, but disappeared again in a few days, and he had no more colic. In the *sixth* case, two grains of opium were given daily, with purgative clysters. An anodyne plaster was also employed, but with what effect on the symptoms is not stated. The *seventh* case was complicated with incomplete paraly-

sis. After the colic had been removed by calomel and opium, the weakness of the limbs was treated by tepid bath and purgatives, and disappeared in twelve days. The *eighth* was a case of neuralgia, producing acute pain, which extended from the sacrum to the foot, following the peroneal edge of the leg. Calomel and opium were ordered as above, and the neuralgia ceased on the second day.

In all the above cases, constipation of several days continuance had preceded the colic. The facts stated seem to warrant a conclusion in favor of combining opium with cathartics in the treatment of this disease. The circumstance mentioned in connection with the sixth case, of 144 grains of calomel taken in the course of two days, and followed only by slight ptyalism, is not a little remarkable.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1829.

EPIDEMIC ECZEMA.

An eczematous eruption is now extremely prevalent in this city and vicinity. It made its first appearance during the past summer, when it yielded to remedies with tolerable readiness. As the cool weather advanced it became gradually more rare, and almost escaped notice in the winter. For the last four months it has reappeared with increased violence, and affects equally persons of every age and of every class. Cleanliness and good living are assailed as often as poverty and personal neglect; nor do external agents of any

description appear to have much effect in promoting or removing the disease.

The eruption generally appears in the form of small pimples surrounded by an inflamed base, and without any previous derangement of the system. The itching is so intense as entirely to deprive the patient of the command of his hands, and scratching does not appear to be productive of that satisfaction which it gives in ordinary cases; on the other hand, it is followed by a sense of smarting scarcely less disagreeable than the previous formication. Many

persons afflicted with this epidemic are obliged by it to pass night after night in walking their chambers, and in other fruitless endeavors to alleviate the cutaneous irritation.

When the heads of the pimples are abraded, a thin dark-colored scab is formed, which is closely attached to the skin, and removed by very slow degrees, leaving a slight discoloration that disappears in a few weeks or months, according to the violence of the disease. This eruption is seen in various stages in the same individual at the same time,—new vesicles coming out as former ones disappear. The general health is not usually affected; the *primæ viæ* are not deranged; and were it not for the terrible and uncontrollable itching which torments the patient at all hours, he would scarcely think it worth his while to seek medical assistance.

The seat of this disease is usually the trunk, particularly around the abdomen and chest, and the neck. The extremities are sometimes affected, and still more seldom the face. In one very bad case, however, which is now under our charge, it extended over the face pretty copiously, and was very fully and thickly developed on the tongue and internal lining of the mouth, throat, and fauces. In a short time a diarrhœa came on, attended with considerable pain and producing great debility; and it was altogether probable that this symptom was occasioned by an extension of the eruption to the mucous coat of the stomach and bowels. This patient is in the ninth month of pregnancy,

and is doing well. No case has come to our knowledge in which the palms of the hands, or the analogous structure on the feet, have become the seat of this eruption.

It will be easily imagined that the intense itching which characterizes this complaint from its earliest stages, renders it extremely difficult for the physician to discover a pimple at so early a stage as to judge what is the precise nature of the complaint. The heads are usually torn off long before the patient has time to exhibit himself; hence the doubt which exists with many practitioners whether the disease be a Lichen or Eczema. In some cases it may perhaps assume the form of the one, and yet be distinctly vesicular in others. In several instances, however, in which we have examined the eruption as it began to show itself, a drop of semi-limpid matter has been discerned in each pimple; and, placing this fact in connection with the usual course of the disease, and its frequency among children as well as adults, we may set it down with tolerable confidence as an Epidemic Eczema.

In some cases it has appeared to be contagious, and in others frequent contact has failed to communicate it. The evidence on this point is, so far as our own observation and that of our friends has gone, insufficient to warrant any decided opinion.

With regard to the treatment we have little to offer. The predominant symptom has frequently given rise to the suspicion, in the mind of the patient, that his disease was the itch, and sulphur ointment has been resorted to; but whenever the erup-

tion has disappeared by the use of this or any other local application, the consequence has been a greater or less degree of nausea, vertigo, and general febrile excitement. Such applications should therefore be discarded from the treatment of the disease, or used only with such precautions as the judgment of the physician will suggest.

Such very general and brief notice of this distressing epidemic, which is not confined to the city, but spreads widely in the neighboring country, we have considered due to our readers, many of whom are aware of the obstinacy with which it resists the most powerful remedies. When further experience has thrown more light on the subject, a more detailed account may be expected. Medical history furnishes us but little information respecting it, the only notice we have been able to find of any similar epidemic being contained in the works of Hoffman, published in the year 1729.

THE SENSES

Subject to a Variety of Functional Modifications.

AMONG our Sketches will be found an account of two persons in whom the power of distinguishing different colors from each other is defective. This kind of deviation from perfect vision is by no means rare, and many cases are on record where it existed in greater degree than in the cases of Dr. Colquhoun. Mr. Haddard mentions an instance of a Mr. Harris who confounded all the dark colors with black, and all the light colors with white, so that he knew in fact only

black and white. A brother of this Harris always mistook orange for green, and in another brother the defect was still greater.—The history of a case may be found in the Philosophical Transactions, in which full reds and full greens appeared always alike.—In Dr. Brewster's Encyclopedia there is an account of a Mr. Tucker, who had no power of distinguishing orange from green or blue from pink;—Mr. Dalton, the chemist, has the same incapacity for distinguishing blue from pink, and the red in the solar spectrum is scarcely visible to him; and a celebrated historical painter, in our own city, has a peculiarity in judging of colors, which is equally remarkable and inconvenient.—In the memoirs of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, is described the case of a gentleman who could see but four colors, viz. white, yellow, grey, and light blue; and Dr. Nichols relates an anecdote of a soldier, who, having purchased a uniform coat and waistcoat of blue, selected breeches of red, thinking them a perfect match. These and other cases come to us with the best authority, and in many of them the defect has appeared to be hereditary.

Touching an explanation of these phenomena, different philosophers have viewed the subject in different lights; an explanation which has been perfectly clear to some minds, others have not been able to comprehend; and defects of reasoning have been easily distinguished by one philosopher, which another has had no power of discerning.—The vitreous humor has been supposed by some to have a shade of blue, by

which the red light is absorbed before it reaches the retina, and so on. The fibres of the retina which perceive certain colors, are thought by others to be partially or wholly paralyzed; and a third class, who suppose that rays of light pass through the retina and are reflected back, before perception, by the choroid coat, attribute the phenomena we have alluded to, to a modifying shade of color in the retina itself. Whichever theory we adopt, the explanation appears plausible, and whether we regard the supposed cause of the defect in question, or the analogy of the other senses, it is on the whole somewhat remarkable that these peculiarities of vision are not more frequent.

The same articles *feel* hot to some persons that feel cold to others, and there is every grade of this perception between the two extremes. The peculiarities of *taste* are proverbial; what to some is agreeable, is nauseous to others, and what is decidedly pleasant or disgusting to the palate of one, is often perfectly tasteless to another. So also with the sense of *hearing*. The perception of sounds differs greatly in different individuals. Even among those laboring under ordinary *deafness*, some will hear a *shrill* voice scarcely raised above its usual tone, whilst a *louder* voice is scarcely audible, although raised very considerably; and vice versa. The note of the common *tick*, or death-watch, as it is tremblingly called by the superstitious, is distinctly heard by some ears, whilst to others equally near, and having an equal acuteness of hearing ordinary

sounds, it is wholly inaudible on the closest attention. Dr. Wollaston says he has met with several persons "who never could hear the squeak of a bat; with some who never heard the chirping of the house cricket; and with one gentleman who never heard the chirping of the common house sparrow;" although their companions could perceive these sounds very distinctly.

Thus do the capabilities of the other senses differ in different persons; and this fact would seem to favor the explanation which appears, at first view, the least probable of the three spoken of, viz.: that the defect of perceiving certain colors must depend on some modification, perhaps paralysis, of the nerves originally designed to receive the impression. This subject is, however, but very imperfectly understood, and offers a wide and an inviting field for the observation and ingenuity of the physiologist.

PRESCRIPTIONS.

THE following prescriptions are from the Provincial Medical Gazette.

Nervous Toothach Liniment.

Aromatic spirit of ammonia, 2 ounces; gum opium, 1 drachm. Dissolve the opium in the spirit by maceration. The affected tooth, as well as those in the upper and lower maxilla, to be well rubbed with the liniment every two or three hours during the paroxysms.

Or,—

Camphor, 2 drachms, dissolved in spirits of terebinth, 1 ounce; to be applied as the former liniment.

Or,—

Camphor, 1 drachm, dissolved in

spirit of wine; rectified æther, 1 ounce; oil of cajeput, 2 drachms. Mix to make a liniment; to be applied as directed above.

Toothach with Caries and Exposure of the Nerve.

Powder of gum arabic, half a drachm; tincture of myrrh; compound tincture of benzoin; of each half an ounce: oil of cinnamon, five drops; wine of opium, three drachms. Mix to make a liniment, to be introduced into the cavity of the affected tooth.

The resinous gums of this composition being separated, form a complete coating to the exposed surface, which protects it in a great degree from the irritation produced by extraneous substances. This liniment should likewise be extensively and freely applied to all the teeth and gums.

Rheumatic Toothach unconnected with Caries.

Powdered leaves of pyrethrum, 1 drachm; mucilage of gum arabic, a sufficient quantity to make a paste. Divide it into twelve portions. Take one into the mouth occasionally, and let it remain till dissolved. To be used in conjunction with the liniment, and an aperient dose with colchicum.

Liniment.—Camphorated spirit of wine, 3 drachms; liquor of ammonia, 10 drops; wine of opium, 1 drachm. Mix to form a liniment, to be rubbed on the outside of the cheek of the affected side three or four times daily.

Inflammatory Toothach, with Caries.

Hydrocyanic acid, 1 drop; to be placed in the carious excavation after lancing the gum freely.

The following remedy has obtained great repute on the Continent:—

Extract of henbane, 1 drachm; gum opium, half a drachm; extract of belladonna, and camphor, of each 6 grains; oil of cajeput, and tincture of cantharides, of each 8 drops. To be mixed into a paste, with which the decayed tooth is to be filled.

Ruspini's Tincture.

Florentine iris root, 8 ounces; powdered cloves, 1 ounce; ambergris, 1 scruple; spirits of wine, 2 pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain for use.

This application we have used with great relief where the teeth have evinced tenderness on inhaling atmospheric air, or on the application of cold liquids, such as occasionally takes place after the operation of scaling.

Chevalier's Unguent for Cancer.

Flowers of digitalis, one-sixth part; fresh butter, five parts: to be prepared by boiling until the leaves are crisp, and then strain. Mr. Chevalier has found this application very efficacious in diminishing the activity of cancerous ulceration.

Chevalier's Unguent for Acute Rheumatic Inflammation.

Extract of belladonna, from an eighth to a fourth; oil of lavender, six drops; lard, two ounces: mix. The parts affected to be rubbed with this ointment *only* until the pain begins to abate, and left upon it afterwards *only* while the pain continues to be present.

Sir Henry Halford's Ointment for Hemorrhoids.

Ointment of nitrate of mercury, almond oil, of each equal parts; mix in a porcelain mortar: to be applied to the parts two or three times daily.

Sir Gilbert Blane's Mixture for Red Gravel.

Cinnamon water, two ounces; mucilage of gum arabic, two ounces; clarified honey, one ounce and a half; solution of potash, three drachms; wine of opium, forty drops; to which may be occasionally added two drachms of the compound spirit of juniper: take two large spoonfuls three times a day in a cup of barley water. Sir G. Blane has prescribed this, we understand, with great advantage, for a high personage.

Sir William Knighton's Pills for Red Gravel.

Dried carbonate of soda, hard soap, of each a drachm; extract of uva ursi, one scruple: mix to make thirty pills. Two to be taken three times a day.

Vance's, (late of Haslar Hospital,) Stomachic Mixture for Dyspepsia.

Sulphate of quinine, twelve grains; diluted sulphuric acid, two drachms; tincture of orange peel, one ounce and a half; tincture of hops, half an ounce: mix. A dessert spoonful to be taken in a glass of tepid water half an hour before breakfast and dinner daily. It is an elegant and grateful preparation, and very beneficial when a sense of distension and flatulence is experienced after eating.

Dr. Middleton's, (late of Southampton,) Aperient for Children.

Take of senna leaves, one drachm and fifteen grains; manna, one ounce; supertartrate of potash, forty-five grains; boiling water, eight ounces: macerate for two hours, and strain. This mixture, in the dose of three or four spoonful, is moderately aperient, and, from its being extremely palatable, it may be conveniently administered to children where there is difficulty in getting them to take medicine that may be somewhat nauseous.

Menorrhagia.—The leaves of the red holyhock, made into a conserve, are said to be an effectual remedy for this complaint. This is the proper season for gathering them.

Power of the Will over certain Muscles.—It is said of Fuseli, a celebrated painter, that he had the power of ejecting the contents of his stomach at will, and without nausea. When a dinner or any particular article of food disturbed his digestion, he would retire and throw it off with great facility. There are few persons who possess such power over

the muscles concerned in the process of vomiting.

Journal of Humanity.—A weekly newspaper with this title has been recently commenced at Andover, in this State. It is devoted to the Suppression of Intemperance, and contains many interesting and useful essays on topics connected with this subject. The numbers which we have seen of this journal, contain more original matter, we should judge, than any other newspaper printed in this country. We recommend the work to the profession, as containing many good prescriptions for preventing the use and removing the effects of one of the most noxious poisons which can be introduced into the animal system.

TO THE FACULTY.

The Editor will be happy to receive more frequent Communications on subjects interesting to the Profession. As this Journal is not connected with, or devoted to the interest of any school, party or institution, this invitation is intended to be universal. It is addressed, however, more particularly to the Subscribers, and to the medical and surgical officers of Hospitals and other Public Institutions; for among the former are the most intelligent and talented members of the Profession in New England and many other States—and at Public Medical Establishments peculiar opportunities are offered for extensive experiment and observation, the result of which must be particularly valuable to the Medical Practitioner.

REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

The week ending July 3, at noon.

Of abscess on the brain, 1—consumption, 2—dropsy, 2—dropsy in the head, 1—infantile, 2—inflammation in the bowels, 1—intemperance, 1—lung fever, 1—measles, 2—palsy, 2—rupture, 1—typhous fever, 1—suicide, 1—unknown, 3. Males, 12—females, 9. Still-born, 1. Total, 22.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS, and AUTHORS, are informed, that by transmitting to the Editor, free of expense, a copy of such works as they may write or publish on subjects interesting to the medical profession, they will be entitled to a notice of such works in the pages of this Journal.

CARTER & HENDEE

HAVE just received **LIZAR'S ANATOMICAL PLATES**, in 12 Nos., cold and letter press.

Barton's North American Flora, 3 vols.

do. Medical Botany, 2 vols.

Bonaparte's Ornithology, 3 vols.

A System of Human Anatomy; translated from the 4th Edition of the French of H. Cloquet, M.D. By **ROBERT KNOX, M.D. F.R.S.E.**

TURNER'S CHEMISTRY,—NEW EDITION.

JUST published, and for sale, by **CARTER & HENDEE**,—Elements of Chemistry, including recent Discoveries and Doctrines of the Science. By **EDWARD TURNER, M.D. F.R.S.E.** Second American Edition.

MANUEL FOR THE USE OF THE STETHESCOPE.

CA **CARTER & HENDEE** have recently published,—A short Treatise on the different Methods of investigating Diseases of the Chest. Translated from the French of M. Collins, by **W. N. RYLAND, M.D.** From the third London Edition, with Plates, and an Explanatory Introduction, by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In preparing for the American press the English translation of the well known and highly useful work of M. Collins, which translation has passed through three editions in England, the Editor thinks he can render it more acceptable by dispensing with the various prefaces and introductory remarks which encumber the last edition, and by substituting in their place an entirely new introduction, which is in-

tended to embrace the amount of all that is important in the prefaces alluded to, as well as that which is contained in various abstracts and reviews which have appeared of treatises upon the different methods of investigating thoracic diseases, and in some other works which are not generally before the profession in this country.

C. & H. keep constantly for sale Stethoscopes of the most approved form.

FRENCH WATER COLORS.

COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have for sale, the following Water Colors, of an excellent quality, manufactured by P. C. Lambertye, (France,) viz: Bistre, Raw Cassel, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Egyptian Brown, Vandyke Brown, Brown Pink, Seppia, Violet Lake, Carmine Lake, Sanders Blue, Prussian Blue, Mineral Blue, Indigo, Yellow Ochre, Yellow Mineral, Gamboge, Yellow Orpiment, Yellow Lake, Naples Yellow, Burnt Italian Earth, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, Italian Earth, Crocus Martial, Green Lake, Sanders Green, Sap Green, Mineral Green, Prussian Green, Vermillion, Saturnine Red, Indian Red, Red Ochre, Red Orpiment, Flake White.

Also—a great variety of Newman's, Ackerman's, Reeves's and Osborne's Colors, in boxes and separate cakes.

DENTAL SURGERY.

THIS day received by **CARTER & HENDEE, No. 135, Washington Street**,—A SYSTEM OF DENTAL SURGERY. In three parts.

1. Dental Surgery as a Science.

2. Operative Dental Surgery.

3. Pharmacy connected with Dental Surgery.

By **SAMUEL SHELDON FITCH, M.D., Surgeon Dentist.** Denticum curam habeto ut bene digeras et diu vivas; laxatis dentibus laxantur et chylaceos officinæ; hinc mille malorum occasiones.—Baglivi XIII. March 17.

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A COPY of Bloomfield's Critical Digest of Sacred Annotation on the Gospels, 3 vols. 8vo. "The most learned Commentary in the English language." For sale by **COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.**

Published weekly, by **JOHN COTTON**, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.